



MAXINE SULLIVAN

AT
VINE ST.
LIVE

NEVER BEFORE RELEASED
DIGITALLY RECORDED
MARCH 4 & 5, 1986

MAXINE SULLIVAN

- 1 I'M CRAZY 'BOUT MY BABY
- 2 AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE
- 3 SAY IT WITH A KISS
- 4 JEEPERS CREEPERS
- 5 THE OLD MUSIC MASTER
- 6 BOB WHITE
- 7 BETWEEN 18th & 19th ON CHESTNUT
- 8 PERSONALITY
- 9 NOT MINE
- 10 ARTHUR MURRAY TAUGHT ME DANCING IN A HURRY
- 11 CHEATIN' ON ME
- 12 LOVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

AT
VINE ST.
LIVE



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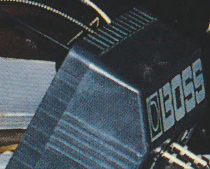
Produced by Ron Berinstein

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130 West 57th Street, New York City. Printed in Canada

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VINE ST.
BAR & CO.



- 1 **I'M CRAZY 'BOUT MY BABY**
(Waller-Hill)
- 2 **AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE**
(Arlen-Mercer)
- 3 **SAY IT WITH A KISS**
(Warren-Mercer)
- 4 **JEEPERS CREEPERS**
(Warren-Mercer)
- 5 **THE OLD MUSIC MASTER**
(Carmichael-Mercer)
- 6 **BOB WHITE**
(Hanighen-Mercer)
- 7 **BETWEEN 18th & 19th ON CHESTNUT**
(Osborne-Rogers)
- 8 **PERSONALITY**
(Burke-Van Heusen)
- 9 **NOT MINE**
(Schertzinger-Mercer)
- 10 **ARTHUR MURRAY TAUGHT ME DANCING IN A HURRY**
(Schertzinger-Mercer)
- 11 **CHEATIN' ON ME**
(Pollack-Yellen)
- 12 **LOVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER**
(Gensler-Robin)

Gerald Wiggins Piano
Red Callender Bass
Paul Humphrey Drums
Herman Riley Sax

Executive Producers Ron Berinstein &
Alan Eichler
Produced by Ron Berinstein, Miriam
Cutler & David Kreisberg
Recorded live March 4-5, 1986 at the
Vine St. Bar & Grill, Hollywood, California
Engineers Larry Walsh & David Kreisberg
Editing & post production by Miriam
Cutler, David Kreisberg & Larry Walsh
at Capitol Records Studios, Hollywood,
California
Art Direction by Jeff Faville
Photographs by W.G. Harris

MAXINE Sullivan's last decade found her at the zenith of a career that had spanned more than 50 years. She had retired in the 1950's when she thought her style of music was finished, only to find herself back in demand in the late 1960's, when she returned to performing full-time. By the 1980's, she had been nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in the musical *My Old Friends*, was a major attraction at clubs and festivals throughout the world, and received Grammy nominations in 1983, 1986 and 1987.

Maxine chose to freelance as a recording artist and there was such a demand for her services that she was heard on more than 50 albums on assorted labels. Despite her great international success, however, she had not performed in Los Angeles in more than 40 years. When she received her second Grammy nomination in 1986 (for her superb *Cotton Club* album), Ron Berinstein and I arranged for her to play the Vine St. Bar and Grill for a week starting March 2, so that she could attend the Awards ceremony for the first time (she had missed the one in 1983). As luck would have it, when the Grammy people heard she would be in town, she was also invited to be the on-camera jazz presenter and had the dubious distinction of having to announce Cleo Laine as the winner in her own category. But Maxine took it in her stride and was glad to be nominated.

Her opening at Vine St. was spectacular. She was backed by four of Los Angeles' best musicians—Gerald Wiggins on piano, Red Callender on bass, Paul Humphrey on drums and Herman Riley on sax.

Ron had talked about starting a series of live albums at Vine St. and Maxine was all the impetus he needed. We decided to record that same week and he arranged for digital equipment to be brought into

the backstage dressing room. As always, Maxine was game for the project and willing to give it a go, despite the short notice. We didn't want to duplicate the songs on many of her other albums, so she decided to do a Johnny Mercer salute. We picked up a Mercer songbook at Hollywood Music, drove out to Gerry Wiggins' house, and in two days Maxine and Gerry worked out "head" arrangements on 10 songs. Performer that she was, Maxine didn't want to read the lyrics while she was singing, because she was concerned about entertaining the audience that was seated in the club. As a result, she fluffed a word here and there—but we think you'll agree that it doesn't really matter. The spirit that she generates in her music is what is important and it deserves to be heard.

Maxine returned to Vine St. again in May and we celebrated her 75th birthday with a special performance that included a telegram from President Reagan, who had appeared with her in the 1938 film *Going Places* (from which Maxine sings two Mercer songs—the immortal "Jeepers Creepers," which she introduced with Louis Armstrong, and the rarer "Say It With a Kiss," which was cut prior to the movie's release). Seated in the audience was Dorothy Lamour, who had co-starred with Maxine in the 1939 *St. Louis Blues*—

but hadn't seen her in all the years since.

Maxine lost a Grammy for the third time in 1987, but attended the ceremony and opened that week at the Hollywood Roosevelt Cinegrill. She was extremely frail and physical movements were a struggle, but she never showed it on stage. No one knew she was fighting lung cancer. She kept performing literally right up until she entered the hospital two months later. The Sunday before she died (April 8, 1987), John S. Wilson devoted a half-page to her in *The New York Times* reviewing yet another of her many albums. He wrote the article before he knew that she was ill and in it he praised her for still taking chances and trying new things in her singing and for reaching a new depth with her lyrics. It was a celebration of what she had achieved in her career and Maxine was still coherent enough to hear it read to her by her daughter Paula.

Maxine had completed three additional studio albums that were all issued on CD after her passing. This Vine St. recording is the fourth and last of her unreleased albums and is the only live performance to be preserved in digital sound. We know you'll enjoy it—and maybe it's not too late for Maxine to finally get that Grammy!

—Alan Eichler



Dorothy Lamour and Maxine Sullivan have their first reunion since filming Paramount's 1939 musical *St. Louis Blues*. The occasion was Maxine's 75th birthday celebration at the Vine St. Bar and Grill.

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DIGITAL AUDIO

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MAXINE SULLIVAN
AT VINE ST. LIVE

- 1 I'm Crazy 'Bout My Baby 2 Ac-cent-tchu-ate The Positive 3 Say It With A Kiss
4 Jeepers Creepers 5 The Old Music Master 6 Bob White 7 Between 18th & 19th
On Chestnut 8 Personality 9 Not Mine 10 Arthur Murray Taught Me Dancing
In A Hurry 11 Cheatin' On Me 12 Love Is Just Around The Corner

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